



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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DOG MISSING FOR FOUR YEARS REUNITED WITH OWNER

Owners Joyful After Microchip Helps Identify Dog Stolen From Their Backyard

Approximately four and a half years ago, "Alex" a 2-year-old purebred Boxer went missing without a trace from her fenced yard in Olivenhain. The family was devastated. They searched for months for their dog to no avail.

Yesterday, a man dropped off his female Boxer to a County Animal Services shelter to find her a new home. All animals are scanned for a microchip when they arrive at County shelters. To the disbelief of Animal Services' workers, the dog had a microchip and after researching the number, the name of the owner on the microchip did not match the name of the person who had relinquished her.

County staff called the owner listed on the microchip with the information. They asked the owners whether they had ever own a Boxer. They replied "Yes!" John and Lisa Najjar were flabbergasted and elated. John Najjar could only repeat over and over again, "unbelievable," "unbelievable."

County staff then placed a phone call to Justin Howe, the man who had brought the dog to the shelter and he told them that he had purchased the dog for \$100 in Escondido approximately three years ago from someone who claimed to be the owner. He too was amazed and pleased that "Rosie" (his name for the dog) was going home.

"You can't help but have a lump in your throat, when you hear a story like this," said Dawn Danielson, Director of County Animal Services. "There is a clear message here, have your pet microchipped."

Licensing and microchip clinics are held every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at all three County shelters. On Sunday, June 25, there will be an additional clinic at the shelter on Gaines Street from 12 p.m.-2:00 p.m. For shelter locations, visit www.sddac.com

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